

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

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FM USMISSION NATO

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SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 5309

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2911

LIMDIS

GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, DPC, CA

SUBJECT: DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING MAY 22, 1975: AGENDA ITEM IV,
RESTRICTED SESSION: DISCUSSION OF CANADIAN DEFENSE REVIEW

REF: A. OTTAWA 1757(NOTOAL

B. OTTAWA 1879(NOTAL)

C. STATE 118066(NOTAL)

1. RESPONDING TO A QUESTION FROM LEBER (FRG) CONCERNING THE CANA-
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DIAN DEFENSE REVIEW, RICHARDSON (CANADA) SATATED THAT THE ALL-AIR
OPTION WAS ONLY ONE OPTION FOR CANADIAN FORCES IN EUROPE. GOC HAS
CONCLUDED THAT CANADA WILL MAINTAIN ITS FORCE COMMITMENT AT ITS
PRESENT LEVEL; THE DEFENSE REVIEW IS STILL UNDER WAY.

2. SECRETARY SCHLESINGER SAID THAT PERHAPS THE VIEWS OF SOME ALLIES WOULD BE USEFUL TO GOC. HE STATED THAT TRENDS ARE RUNNING AGAINST THE ALLIANCE. NATO USED TO ASSUME THAT QUALITY COULD SUBSTITUTE FOR QUANTITY. WHILE THIS ARGUMENT MAY NO LONGER HAVE ITS FORMER FORCE, WE CANNOT TO IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION AND CONSIDER THAT MAINTENANCE OF NUMBERS JUSTIFIES NEGLECT OF QUALITATIVE IMPROVEMENTS. THE AREA OF HIGHEST VULNERABILITY TO THE ALLIANCE IS IN EUROPE; AN ADEQUATE DETERRENT HERE IS ESSENTIAL. SECRETARY SCHLESINGER NOTED THAT SOME YEARS AGO, CANADA REDUCED ITS FORCE IN EUROPE FROM 10,000 TO 3,000. HE CONTINUED BY SAYING THAT MAINTENANCE OF CANADA'S COMMITMENTS MEANS MAINTAINING THE QUALITY OF ITS PRESENT FORCE IN EUROPE AS WELL AS ITS NUMBERS. THERE IS NO COMPARISON BETWEEN TANK FORCES AND INFANTRY FORCES IN CAPABILITY TO COUNTER THE WARSAW PACT ARMOR THREAT. SINCE CANADA HAD ALREADY REDUCED THE NUMBERS OF ITS FORCES IN EUROPE, SECRETARY SCHLESINGER SAID, HE WOULD HOPE THAT ENHANCED QUALITY WOULD RESULT, AS IN TRADITIONALLY THE CASE TO OFFSET QUANTITATIVE REDUCTIONS. HE WISHED TO BRING THIS TO CANADA'S ATTENTION MOST FORCEFULLY.

3. RECHARDSON REPLIED THAT THE REDUCTION WAS FROM 10,000 TO 5,000 NOT 3,000. THE TERM "QUALITY" WAS NOT LIMITED TO EQUIPMENT. CANADA'S MILITARY WERE ALL PROFESSIONAL, AND KEEPING THEM IN EUROPE COSTS A LOT--COSTS OF FACILITIES FOR DEPENDENTS, INCLUDING COSTS FOR TEACHERS, AND THE LIKE. HE ADDED THAT EUROPE WAS NOT CANADA'S ONLY COMMITMENT.

4. SECRETARY SCHLESINGER RESPONDED THAT THE CANADAIAN CONTRIBUTION WAS HIGHLY VALUED. HE HOPED THAT OUR EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT WOULD BE CONVEYED TO OTTAWA, AND ADDED THAT WE THINK IT WOULD BE A DRASTIC MISTAKE TO REMOVE TANK FORCES AND LEAVE INFANTRY FORCES AS A SUBSTITUTE.
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REVIEW
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SECDEF INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
GENEVA
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